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Descriptions of two new species of Ancillista (Gastropoda: Olividae: Ancillinae) from Mozambique

by

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SYNOPSIS

Ancillista aureocallosa and *A. fernandesi* spp. nov. from off central and southern Mozambique are described.

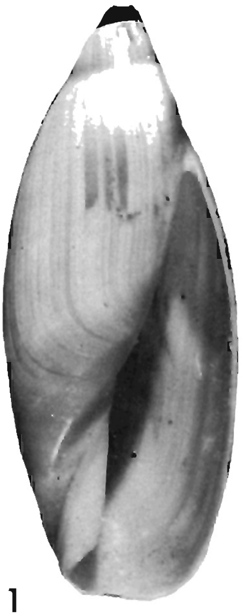
INTRODUCTION

The genus *Ancillista* Iredale, 1936 (type species (o.d.) *A. velesiana* Iredale, 1936), supposedly endemic to Australia, contains relatively few species. All are characterized conchologically by the narrow, smooth, barely twisted columella pillar, the relatively large, blunt protoconch, the thin, finely striate shell, shallow siphonal notch and sutures that are relatively free of secondary callus. Kilburn (1977) elsewhere discusses the relationship of *Ancillista* with *Ancillus* Montfort, 1810, which was regarded as a senior synonym by Chavan (1965). However, *Ancillista* may well prove to be a subgenus of *Anolacia* Gray, 1857 (type species (m.) *Ancillaria mauritiana* Sowerby, 1830). Unfortunately the soft parts of the latter are as yet unknown. Chavan (1965) regarded *Anolacia* as a subgenus of *Olivula* Conrad, 1832, from the Tertiary of Europe and North America, a taxon of doubtful ancillid affinities.

Ancillista aureocallosa sp. nov. Figs 1, 2

Diagnosis: Thin-shelled, narrowly subcylindrical, spire moderately elevated, blunt, whorls not shouldered, columella pillar smooth, straight, foreshortened, with a bordering ridge on its outer side, siphonal notch barely indented; ancillid and posterior fasciolar grooves and labral denticle absent; surface without distinct sculpture; pale creamy-orange, base and sutural regions with a thin orange-yellow callus.

Description: Narrowly subcylindrical, apex blunt, spire 0,27 of total length, whorls flattened, sutures shallow, masked by only a thin callus deposit, body whorl with the periphery median, tapering evenly towards the base; aperture very long, acutely angled posteriorly, greatest width median, anterior half subparallel; siphonal notch very wide and barely indented. Labrum thin, very gently convex, edge slightly concave in lateral view, without a basal denticle; columella pillar without grooves, narrow and straight, markedly short, its oblique, straight anterior termination ending well short of the base of the aperture, outer edge of columella bearing a relatively strong but inconspicuous ridge; anterior fasciolar groove moderately deep. Base totally lacking ancillid or fasciolar grooves, although limit of basal callus deposit is fairly well-defined; spire callus deposit thin, not masking sutures, limits not well-defined. Surface of columella pillar and basal callus deposit microscopically shagreened, rest of surface with rather coarse growth lines and very faint traces of spiral microstriae.



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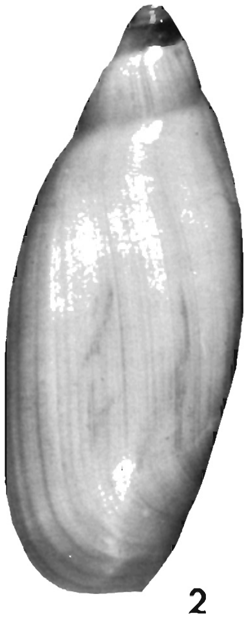

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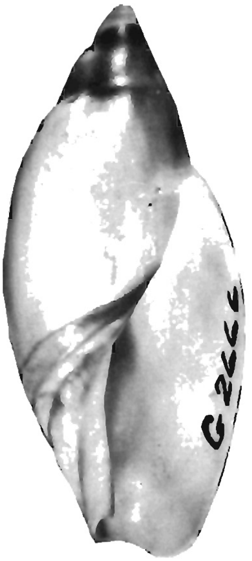

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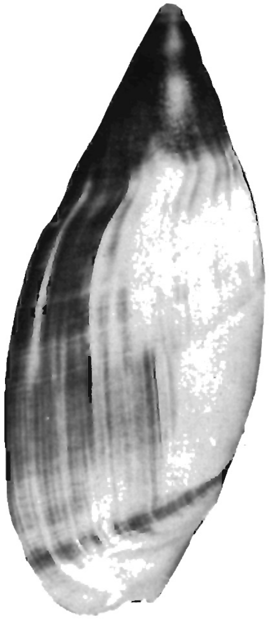

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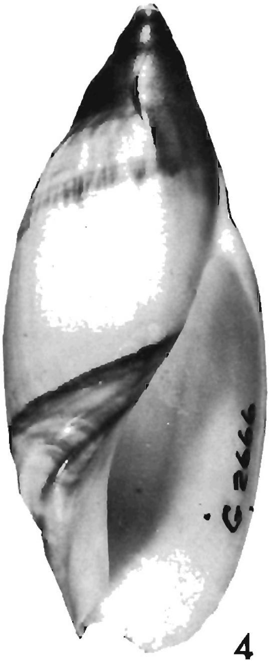

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Figs 1–5. *Ancillista* spp. 1–2. *A. aureocallosa* sp. n. holotype (23,9 × 9,3 mm). 3–5. *A. fernandesi* sp. n. 3–4. holotype (63,5 × 25,9 mm). 5. paratype 1 (45,2 × 19,6 mm).

Callus deposits orange-yellow, remainder of shell creamy-yellow, remains of viscera giving apex of holotype a black colour; columella white.

Protoconch of two whorls, narrowly-domed, nuclear whorl depressed; smooth and transparent, limit well-defined, basal diameter 2,5 mm. Teleoconch slightly more than two whorls.

Dimensions: 23,9 × 9,3 mm.

Distribution: Known only from the type locality, north of Beira, MOZAMBIQUE, in 10–20 fathoms.

Type material: Holotype, N.M. G2718/T1865, don. A. Z. Visagé.

Remarks: Ancillista aureocallosa is closely allied to the Australian *A. muscae* (Pilsbry, 1926) but differs in its non-shouldered spire whorls, in the lack of distinct spiral sculpture, in coloration, and in the presence of a strong ridge on the outside of the columella. *Ancilla scaphella* (Sowerby, 1859) and *A. ampla* (Gmelin, 1791) from the northern Indian Ocean are also superficially similar in some respects, but differ in their wider, obliquely grooved columella, sharper apex, lower, more strongly calloused spire and broader body whorl.

Ancillista fernandesi sp. nov. Figs 3, 4, 5

Diagnosis: Rather thick-shelled, ovate-fusiform, smooth, spire high, heavily enamelled with dark reddish-chocolate callus, shallowly indented at sutures, the white, mamillate protoconch being exposed; body whorl whitish with light chocolate to yellowish-brown callous extremities, which become continuous as a broad zone behind the labrum; columella pillar and fasciolar region typical of genus, siphonal notch moderately deep.

Description: Ovate-fusiform, spire approximately 0,30–0,33 of total length, orthoconic, apex rather blunt, whorls gently convex, shallowly impressed at the sutures which are otherwise completely masked by callus. Aperture relatively broad, greatest width below the middle, tapering at each end, siphonal notch moderately deep. Labrum thickened and slightly incurved posteriorly, edge slightly concave in lateral view, with a suggestion of a vestigial denticle basally. Columella pillar narrow, slightly curved, but barely twisted, smooth, without discernible microshagreened sculpture, basal termination very oblique, with a shallow sinus. Anterior fasciolar groove shallow but rather wide; fasciole and area of basal callus demarcated posteriorly by a very faint groove, body of fasciole divided by two blunt, low, equidistant ridges, without a distinct posterior fasciolar groove. Posterior callus deposits are complex: (*a*) there is a thin primary deposit, anteriorly defined by a faint groove, which occupies the sutural and shoulder area, save on the final third to half body whorl where it expands to merge with the basal callus deposit; (*b*) deposited on top of this is a thicker, more polished secondary callus, which overlies the spire and in the adult forms a very glossy tongue-shaped deposit on the right side of the spire, extending up as far as the base of the ante-penultimate whorl, and continuing down as a transparent glaze over the parietal region to the columella, and as a narrow band behind the labrum almost as far as the basal callus; protoconch largely exposed, only the base of its last whorl being covered by secondary callus. Surface largely smooth, only the mid-body whorl showing very faint spiral striae and, in places, coarse growth lines.

Ground colour off-white, primary callus and most of fasciolar region with light chocolate- to yellowish-brown axial and spiral streaks, secondary callus very dark reddish-chocolate brown on spire, white in parietal region and on posterior end of labrum; early part of protoconch uncoloured; aperture and columella white, the latter tinged with violet towards its outer edge. Juveniles translucent off-white, primary subsutural callus milky-white, dark secondary callus initially very thin, largely restricted to sutures and right ventral side of spire.

Teleoconch of about 3½ whorls. Protoconch of 2½ whorls, somewhat mamillate, apex domed, in some more broadly so than in others; basal diameter 3 mm.
Dimensions: 63,5 × 25,4 mm (holotype); 62,2 × 25,1 mm (paratype 2); 45,2 × 19,6 mm (paratype 1, labrum damaged).

Distribution: Known only from the gut contents of fishes caught between Inhaca Island (26°02'S) and Ponta Zavora (24°31'S), MOZAMBIQUE.

Type material: Holotype N.M. G2666/T1863, paratype 1, N.M. G2717/T1864, a juvenile, both don. C. P. Fernandes; paratype 2 in coll. Fernandes.

Remarks: Ancillista fernandesi is unique within the genus on account of the unusually solid structure and heavy spire callus of the adult, in these characters being suggestive of the genera *Amalda* H. & A. Adams, 1853, and *Ancillus* Montfort, 1810. Juvenile examples, however, clearly show its true affinities to lie with *Ancillista cingulata* (Sowerby, 1830) and *A. velesiana* Iredale, 1936. Furthermore, the simple columella of *A. fernandesi* separates it from both *Amalda* and *Ancillus*, and is one of the distinguishing features of *Ancillista.* Within the subfamily Ancillinae *A. fernandesi* appears to be further unique in its striking skewbald colour pattern and in the progressive merging of the anterior and posterior callus zones of the last whorl.

REFERENCES

CHAVAN, A., 1965. Essai de reclassification des Olividae Ancillinae. *Bull. Soc. geol. de France* [7]: 102–109.

KILBURN, R. N., 1977. Descriptions of new species of *Amalda* and *Chilotygma* (Gastropoda: Olividae: Ancillinae), with a note on the systematics of *Amalda, Ancillus* and *Ancillista. Ann. Natal Mus.* **23**(1): 13–21.